Impact of developments in USSR and Eastern Europe on India

1641. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what special arrangements, if any, have been made to monitor developments in the USSR and Eastern Europe and also the changing relations between the Western and Eastern countries; and

(b) what would be the effect on India's security, trade and position in the comity of nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Government have been closely monitoring the developments in the USSR and Eastern European countries, as well as in East-West relations Apart from special reports received from our Missions abroad, two meetings of Heads of Missions have been specially organised for this purpose, frequent inter-Ministerial consultations have been held, and close contract maintained with non-governmental experts.

(b) India and the Soviet Union have an expanding multidimensional strong, stable and time-tested relationship, as reaffirmed during PM's recent visit to the USSR. Our relations with the East European countries continue to be based on the principles of friendship and mutual benefit.

People of Indian origin in Hong Kong

1642. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the status of people of Indian origin living in Hong Kong when the territory is taken over by China;

(b) whether such persons have approached the Government of India for providing them special facilities for business and trade in India; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Persons of Indian origin in Hong Kong consist mainly of those holding Indian citizenship and British Dependent Territory Citizenship. Both these categories of persons are expected to qualify for continued abode in Hong Kong after the territory reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1987.

(b) Representatives of the Indian community in Hong Kong have made some suggestions in this regard.

(c) Government hope that the well-being and livelihood of these persons will continue to be assured in Hong Kong after 1997.

Kannagi Temple

1643. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the case of maintenance of Kannagi Temple on Tamilnadu-Kerala border has been pending decision by both States for a long time; and

(b) if so, what steps the Central Government are taking to settle this long-standing issue and make an amicable solution of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) There is divergence of views between the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in regard to the location of Kannagi temple. Both the State Governments have been advised to consider settling the matter through bilateral discussions. Good offices of the Government of India are always available to the State Governments in this regard.